

Message Text

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43

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-15

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-13 AID-20 PC-15 CU-04 COME-00

EB-11 LAB-06 SIL-01 DRC-01 /182 W

----- 037997

R 212300Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2520

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

USCINCSO

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USCINCSO FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, ELAB, NU

SUBJECT: POLITICAL SUMMARY - SEPTEMBER 8-21, 1973

REF: MANAGUA 3690

1. CELEBRATIONS AND VIOLENCE - WITH CANCELLATION OF THE TRADITIONAL STUDENT PARTICIPATION, THE SEPTEMBER 14-15 NATIONAL DAY CELEBRATIONS TOOK ON A MORE MILITARY FLAVOR THAN IN PAST YEARS. THE CENTRAL THEME WAS A WARM PAEAN TO THE NATIONAL GUARD (GN) WITH EMPHASIS ON ITS PERFORMANCE FOLLOWING THE DECEMBER DISASTER. GENERAL SOMOZA WAXED ESPECIALLY ELOQUENT IN HIS TRIBUTE TO THE GN IN ONE SPEECH, BORROWING FROM CHURCHGL'S FAMOUS "NEVER HAVE SO MANY OWED SO MUCH TO SO FEW" PHRASE TO CHARACTERIZE THE ROLE OF THE GN DURING THE IMMEDIATE POST-EARTHQUAKE PERIOD. BUT

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THE FLOW OF THESE ECONOMIUMS WAS VIOLENTLY DISRUPTED FOR THE

GUARD BY THE BLOODY EVENTS IN NANDAIME ON THE EIGHTEENTH WHICH LEFT FOUR GUARDSMEN AND FOUR TERRORISTS DEAD AND THE NATION AGAIN ASTIR WITH TALK OF GUERRILLAS AND TERRORISM AFTER NEARLY TWO YEARS OF FRENTE SANDISTA DE LIBERACION NACIONAL INACTIVITY.

2. LIBEL LAW - SKIRMISHING CONTINUED OVER THE PAST TWO WEEKS BETWEEN NEWSMEN AND THE GON OVER THE GOVERNMENT PROPOSED LIBEL LAW, WITH RADIO STATION OWNERS MEETING TO SUPPORT THE CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE MEASURE AND THE INTER-AMERICAN PRESS SOCIETY WEIGHING IN WITH A DECLARATION THAT THE LIBEL LAW IS A THREAT TO FREEDOM OF THE PRESS IN NICARAGUA. MEANWHILE, NATIONAL GUARD MAJOR ALBERTO LUNA WHO ADMINISTERS THE RADIO AND TELEVISION CODE - NICKNAMED THE "BLACK CODE" BY OPPOSITION ELEMENTS - REPORTEDLY FINED RADIO CORPORACION FOR VIOLATING THE CODE IN ITS COVERAGE OF EVENTS IN CHILE AND ORDERED THE POPULAR NEWS PROGRAM LA VERDAD SHUT DOWN FOR TWO MONTHS FOR ANOTHER INFRACTION. OPPOSITION LA PRENSA IS WEAVING BISHOP CHAVEZ NUNEZ'S ATTEMPT TO CENSURE IT FOR PUBLISHING PADRE ERNESTO CARDENAL'S NARRATIVE POEM ABOUT A TRIP TO NEW YORK INTO THE FABRIC OF ALLEGED REPRESSION AGAINST THE PRESS WHICH LA PRENSA'S OWNERS SEE BEING LAUNCHED BY SOMOZA FORCES WITH WHOM THE BISHOP IS IDENTIFIED. CHAVEZ'S CHARGE THAT THE POEM IS IMMORAL HAS BEEN IN THE COURTS SEVERAL WEEKS, BUT THE SUIT APPEARS STALEMATED BY LA PRENSA'S MASSIVE LEGAL RESPONSE.

3. WAGE INCREASE - AS PREVIOUSLY ANNOUNCED (MANAGUA 3763), THE NATIONAL MINIMUM WAGE COMMISSION PUBLISHED A NEW SCALE OF HOURLY MINIMUM WAGES ON SEPTEMBER 19. THE INCREASES OVERALL ARE A LITTLE LESS THAN THE 20 PERCENT EXPECTED WITH FARM LABORERS, THE CATEGORY COVERING THE MOST PEOPLE, RECEIVING A 17 PERCENT HIKE AND DOMESTIC SERVANTS ONLY 10 PERCENT. ALSO ON SEPTEMBER 19 THE NATIONAL DISTRICT GOVERNMENT, A MAJOR MANAGUA EMPLOYER, ANNOUNCED A 23 PERCENT INCREASE FOR ITS LOW PAID BLUE COLLAR LABORERS.
SHELTON

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